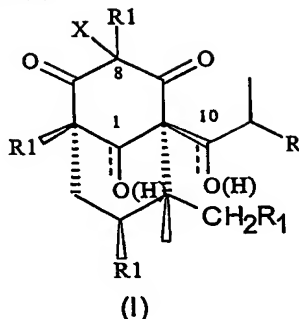
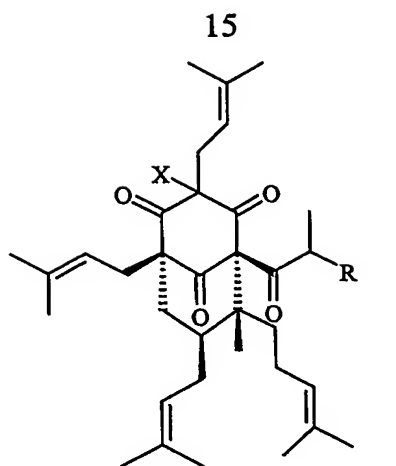


CLAIMS

1. Compounds of formula (I)



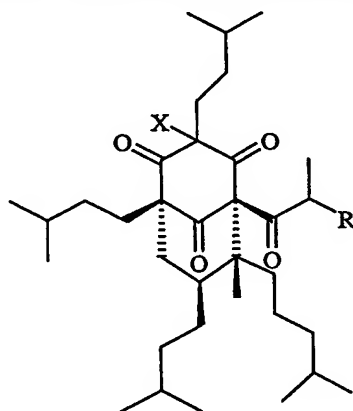
- 5 wherein X is a halogen atom, R is methyl or ethyl and, alternatively:
- a) R_1 is 3-methyl-2-buten-1-yl and oxo groups are present at the 1- and 10- positions;
- b) R_1 is 3-methyl-but-1-yl and oxo groups are present at the 1- and 10- positions;
- 10 c) R_1 is 3-methyl-2-buten-1-yl and hydroxy groups are present at the 1- and 10- positions;
- d) R_1 is 3-methyl-but-1-yl and hydroxy groups are present at the 1- and 10- positions;
- and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof.
- 15 2. Compounds as claimed in claim 1 wherein X is chlorine or bromine.
3. Compounds as claimed in claim 1 wherein X is chlorine.
4. A compound selected from:
- 8-chlorohyperforin (**Ia**), 8-chloroadhyperforin (**Ib**), 8-bromohyperforin (**Ic**), 8-bromoadhyperforin (**Id**)



(Ia: X = Cl, R = CH₃
 Ib: X = Cl, R = CH₂CH₃
 Ic: X = Br, R = CH₃
 Id: X = Br, R = CH₂CH₃)

;

8-chlorooctahydrohyperforin (Ie), 8-chlorooctahydroadhyperforin (If),
 8-bromooctahydrohyperforin (Ig), 8-bromooctahydroadhyperforin (Ih)



(Ie: X = Cl, R = CH₃
 If: X = Cl, R = CH₂CH₃
 Ig: X = Br, R = CH₃
 Ih: X = Br, R = CH₂CH₃)

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5. Compounds according to any one of claims 1-4 for use as medicament.
6. The use of the compounds of any one of claims 1-4 for the preparation of medicaments for the therapy of depression, and Alzheimer's disease.
7. Pharmaceutical compositions containing a compound of any one of claims 1-4 in mixture with suitable excipients or carriers.